

# **DINÉ URANIUM REMEDIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**STATUS AS OF MARCH 1, 2017**

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## **DINÉ URANIUM REMEDIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

“The purpose of the Commission is to study and reach conclusions about the impacts of uranium mining and uranium processing on the Navajo Nation and to make recommendations to the President of the Navajo Nation and to the Navajo Nation Council for policies, laws and regulations to address those impacts.”

## **DINÉ URANIUM REMEDIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **Commission topics:**

- Remediation and restoration of areas contaminated by past uranium mining and uranium processing;
- Technologies to address wastes, including potential locations to dispose and isolate uranium wastes
- The role of the Navajo Nation in remediation of such sites;

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Commission topics (continued):

- Opportunities to increase the employment of members of the Navajo Nation in remediation work
- The need for and scope of studies of the effects on the environment and human health of exposure to uranium wastes;

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Commission topics (continued):

- The potential impacts and risks of new uranium development; and
- The consistency of new proposed mining with the Fundamental Laws of the Diné, the Diné Natural Resources Protection Act of 2005, Navajo Nation CERCLA, and the Radioactive Materials Transportation Act.

## **DINÉ URANIUM REMEDIATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**

- May, 2015 – Legislation passed to create the Commission.
- August, 2015 – Commission Plan of Operation adopted.
- Time for appointments passed with no appointments made.
- February, 2017 – Legislation passed to amend Plan of Operation to reopen and extend time for Commissioner appointments.

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Plan of Operation provides for:

- Executive Director “who shall be appointed by the President of the Navajo Nation and confirmed by the Navajo Nation Council upon recommendation from the Naabik’iyatí Committee of the Navajo Nation Council.”
- Eleven commissioners

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### **Eleven Commissioners:**

- Three Commissioners shall be the Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, or his/her designee; the Director of the Navajo Superfund Program, or his/her designee; and the Manager of the Abandoned Mine Lands Reclamation Department, or his/her designee.

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## **Eleven Commissioners:**

- Council to appoint 6 Commissioners – one from each of the six uranium mining regions. All shall be enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.
- President to appoint 2 Commissioners:
  - One At-Large Community Representative
  - One Youth Member, “who shall be an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation under the age of 25 years at the inception of his/her term, and who shall have demonstrated a continuing interest in issues to be considered by the Commission.”

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Commissioners currently in place:

- Three agency heads (NNEPA, NNAML, NN Superfund)
- February, 2015 – Council appoints Seraphina A. Nez to Commission
- February, 2015 – President appoints Tommy Rock (At-Large Community Representative) and Adriano Tsingine (Youth Member).

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### **Summary:**

- In all, six Commissioners are now in place. Quorum requires six Commissioners plus Executive Director.
- President's office beginning process to hire Executive Director.
- Once Executive Director hired, Commission will have a quorum and may begin operations.

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## **QUESTIONS?**